



## BLM-Eastern States New Field Office Manager Installed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office*

**O**n February 17, 2005, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Director Mike Nedd installed Aaron G. Horton as the fifth Field Office Manager for the Milwaukee Field Office (MFO). In attendance were BLM-ES staff, congressional officials, and Federal agency and community representatives.

"It is a sincere pleasure to be here today to install Aaron Horton as BLM-ES MFO Manager, a very important job in the Bureau," said Mike Nedd. "I know he will succeed in maintaining the high standards of professionalism that BLM-ES MFO is known for."

Aaron Horton was born in Kane, Pennsylvania, and raised in San Diego, California. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1973, with a B.S. degree in Forestry.



Photo by James Engstrom

**Aaron G. Horton, BLM-Eastern States  
Milwaukee Field Office Manager**

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## GLO Records Automation Nears End of Second Phase

*By Larry Cave, Quality Assurance Specialist, BLM-Eastern States,  
General Land Office Records Automation*

**T**he BLM-ES General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation Team is nearing the completion of scanning and indexing nearly 1.25 million post-1908 land patents maintained at the BLM-ES State Office in Springfield, Virginia.

As of March 15, less than 140,000 of these serialized patents remain to be scanned and indexed. Completion of this phase is scheduled for December 2005. These land records include serialized patents issued for all of the Public Land States, including the West.

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## State Director's Message



**B**LM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) is the largest Public Land title holder in the world. As the successor agency to the original General Land Office (GLO), we maintain more than nine million historic land documents—survey plats and field notes, homestead records, patents, military warrants, and railroad grants. These historic records date back to the late 1780s. They were among the very first land records developed from the Land Ordinance of 1785, which authorized the transfer of public lands to private individuals. Even today, these records are extraordinarily valuable documents for natural resource agencies, historians, and genealogists.

With an increased demand for these land records, BLM-ES looked for the best ways to make these historic treasures more easily accessible to the public. We moved ahead with automation efforts through valuable partnerships with several States—Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, and Wisconsin. With key partnerships in place, we joined the e-Government movement in 1989, and we began scanning and indexing the GLO land records for Public Land States, which include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Beginning in May 1998, online access to the GLO Web site was made available for about 1.9 million western land records and about 2 million eastern land records issued between 1820 and 1936. Today, there are over 4.2 million Federal land patent records available online at [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

We are proud of the milestones achieved through the hard work of our GLO Records Automation Team. Recently, they have scanned and indexed over 1,100,000 serial land patent records. These records are now also online through the GLO Web site—one of the most popular web sites at the Department of the Interior. In 2004, we celebrated the GLO Web site's 200 millionth hit. Additionally, we had a unique opportunity to demonstrate the prestigious GLO Web site at many Lewis & Clark events in the East. Through these events, we informed thousands of people about the value of these records and how easy genealogical research can be to locate ancestors who might have received land from the Federal Government.

Over the next 5-10 years, we will be concentrating on:

- ◆ automating 143,000 pre-1908 cash and homestead patent records for Iowa;
- ◆ identifying the next segments of patent records to be automated, e.g., military warrants and Indian records;
- ◆ linking patent documents to land status data for Bureau systems;
- ◆ improving our premier e-Government web site;
- ◆ developing partnerships with other Federal agencies, friends, foundations, and genealogical organizations for linking to other sites and technology exchange;
- ◆ identifying media outlets for publicizing the GLO Web site; and
- ◆ completing the automation of all patent records housed in BLM-ES.

### BLM-ES' primary program areas include:

- ◆ Energy and Mineral Resources;
- ◆ Wildland Fire;
- ◆ Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance;
- ◆ Natural Resources;
- ◆ Lands and Realty;
- ◆ Cadastral Survey; and
- ◆ General Land Office Records Automation.

Lastly, we will continue to conduct enthusiastic outreach efforts with our partners to educate more of the Eastern public about the valuable records we are making available for their use.

**Michael D. Nedd**  
State Director, Eastern States

*Milwaukee's New Field Office Manager...continued from page 1*

To begin his acceptance speech, Aaron recognized his wife, Pam, saying, "She has been most supportive, and to a large measure, it is because of her that I am here today. She provides me with the strength to persevere and to continue trying new things. Living and working in Milwaukee is definitely something new for us. This is so different from our life in Medford, and we are enjoying it."

From 1994-2005, Aaron was the Chief of Operations for the BLM office in Medford, Oregon. The Operations Division has 50 employees who coordinated and partnered with external entities such as the U.S. Forest Service, other BLM districts, and private landowners. As a member of the District Leadership Team, he coordinated work efforts with all entities within the district and actively participated in the decision making. Aaron was also responsible for a large portion of the Medford District's annual budget of \$40 million. From March through June of 2004, Aaron worked as Acting Field Manager for the BLM-ES MFO.

During the installation, Aaron briefly outlined what he believes the three critical elements of his job

will be. They include: 1) taking full responsibility for what happens in the MFO. He stressed that employees needed to stay in touch with what is going on and do their best to manage the resources under our jurisdiction in such a way that we meet the present and future needs of the American people; 2) working closely with the other members on the BLM-ES Leadership Team to maximize the use of our human and financial resources to achieve the BLM's natural resources management objectives, and 3) working with external entities and BLM constituents. Aaron stated that the Secretary of Interior, the BLM Director and his State Director expected him to establish and nurture partnerships which contribute towards the environmentally sound management of our natural resources. Developing relationships with our stakeholders takes time, and he will take that time.

"I have worked for the BLM since 1978 in a variety of positions and locations. I am a forester by experience, training and education. Prior to joining the BLM, I worked for the U.S. Forest Service and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua and Columbia. I have been a supervisor and manager with the BLM since 1987. The BLM is a great place to work. I simply cannot say enough good things about it."

*GLO...continued from page 1*

The first phase, completed several years ago, involved scanning and indexing of over 2 million Eastern States' land records, primarily cash and homestead patents. This second phase consists of automating Federal land grant records from July 1, 1908, when the GLO centralized the issuance of patents out of their Washington Office, until the early 1970s when this authority reverted to the various BLM State Offices.

These serialized patents also include a sizable number of re-surveyed areas of the West, creating a noticeable increase in the complexity of the records handled by GLO staffers. For example, a patent that may have covered a single 640-acre section of land (with a single land description on the document) might now be shown as consisting of 16 lots, each containing approximately 40 acres (thus creating 16 separate land descriptions to be indexed and verified).

The remaining documents to be processed by 2010 include approximately 150,000 Iowa cash and



Photo by Peggy Riek

**BLM-ES Legal Instrument Examiner Dave Meinke scans GLO records which are made available to the GLO Web site at [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov).**

homestead patents, about 65,000 "credit patents" dating back to 1788, and some 100,000 patents covering the period from mid-1907 through July 1, 1908, when the various local land offices stopped issuing their own patents. Also remaining are over one-half million military bounty warrants from the 1800s and other miscellaneous records. Over 4 million land patent images are currently available for viewing on-line at [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov).





## Habitat Improvement Addressed at Lathrop Bayou

*By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office*

A draft management plan has been developed for the Lathrop Bayou tract in Florida. Part of that plan addresses habitat improvement through the use of prescribed fire, monitoring of special status species, control of exotic species and regional coordination in support of federally listed species management.

The BLM-administered land is already closed to mining, motorized vehicle use, and is a rights-of-way avoidance area as a result of earlier planning decisions made in a statewide planning effort completed in 1994. Habitat protection is the primary resource objective for this public land.

The first prescribed burn was successfully completed in January 2004. In the months that followed, the Jackson Hotshot Crew assisted with preburn work at the site. During the week of January 17, 2005, the Jackson Hotshots returned to Lathrop Bayou to focus on fuel reduction around older pines on Round Island. A total of 24 potential artificial cavity trees were located as potentially suitable for artificial inserts or drilled



Photo by Faye Winters

**A Jackson Hotshot Crew member reduces the fuel load around older pines on Round Island at Lathrop Bayou in Florida.**

cavities. These larger trees will be used to drill or install artificial cavities to encourage woodpeckers to expand into new areas. Heavy brush, hardwoods and young slash pine were cleared from around the larger trees identified as potential artificial cavity trees. The island's second prescribed burn was held in March 2005.

## Surveying History on Top of Catoctin Mountain

*Story and photo by Leon Chmura, Land Surveyor, BLM-Eastern States*

BLM is the only agency authorized to determine official boundaries of Federal land in the United States. As part of an ongoing partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), a BLM-ES cadastral survey crew recently performed a dependent resurvey of the Catoctin Mountain Park boundary, in Frederick County, Maryland. During the resurvey, the crew recovered two stone boundary corners originally set in the mid-1700s. These monuments were set in rocky terrain on sloping ground. The fact that they were still standing in their original position in such an environment is a testament to the quality of work of the surveyor who set them.

Originally thought by some NPS personnel to have been set by George Washington, a thorough search of the records at the Frederick County Courthouse revealed that the stones were likely set in 1770, after Washington left the practice of day-to-day



**BLM-ES Survey Technician Jesse Kopach checks the stability of Stone Number 75 during the course of a resurvey on top of Catoctin Mountain in Maryland.**

*Continued on page 5*



## Partners Conduct a Massasauga Survey at Mosquito Creek Lake

By Sylvia Jordan, Natural Resource Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

What, you may ask, is a massasauga? It is a rattlesnake, and a special status species. The name "massasauga" comes from the language of the Chippewa Tribe of Native Americans. It is thought to have been derived from their Ojibwe name for the Missisauga River in Ontario—a likely habitat for the snake. This small, stout bodied rattlesnake is associated with open wetland habitats, including prairies, marshes and floodplains.

The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake is becoming increasingly rare, and has been State-listed as an endangered species throughout most of the range in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. It is now a candidate for Federal listing. The massasauga exists in a handful of locations in Ohio, and information is lacking on its distribution and abundance. Thus, the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Milwaukee Field Office and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (DNR), Division of Wildlife, developed a 2-year Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Agreement for a survey of known and potential massasauga habitat in the vicinity of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (COE) Mosquito Creek Lake Project in Trumbull County, Ohio.

The Ohio DNR manages the Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area, which supports a known population of massasauga. Additional distribution and population data will help the DNR manage the area for waterfowl and recreational visitors using methods that minimize impacts to the massasauga population.



Photo by Gregory J. Lipps

**Eastern massasauga rattlesnakes are found in Ohio.**

BLM has issued Federal oil and gas leases at the southern end of the Project, and are now processing applications for drilling permits when they are submitted. The massasauga survey information will be used during our site specific analysis of proposed wells. We will also be able to identify potential impacts and recommend measures required to prevent or mitigate impacts to the massasauga during the development of well sites. By gathering additional distribution and population data, DNR and BLM can contribute to the conservation of the massasauga as well as prevent impacts that could occur as a result of the agencies' management actions.

Partnerships

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### *Surveying on Catoctin Mountain...continued from page 4*

surveying and moved into land speculation. They were likely set by the county surveyor, John Hanson. He came to do the work as a result of an application for a warrant for survey received by the Maryland Western Shore Land Office. A warrant for survey was the precursor to issuance of a land patent from the colony of Maryland. The applicants and eventual patentees were Benjamin Calvert, son of the fifth Lord of Baltimore, and Thomas Johnson, the first elected Governor of Maryland, a member of the Continental Congress, and an Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Though the monuments lie entirely within the Park, they provided substantive clues as to how the land was initially laid out and consequently subdivided. They will play an integral role in determining the current location of the Park's boundary.

In the course of conducting our work, we often learn aspects of history that are either lost or forgotten by the people most closely connected to it. It is rewarding when we can find information about people and events from the past and be able to relate that history to the current land managers and owners.





## Barksdale Air Force Base—A Major Oil and Gas Play!

*By Brian Kennedy, Geographic Information Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office*

**B**arksdale Air Force Base (AFB) is located in Bossier Parish in northwest Louisiana. The 22,000-acre installation (34 square miles) is east of the Red River and adjacent to a large urban region comprised of the twin cities Shreveport and Bossier City.

Today, Barksdale AFB is the home of the Eighth Air Force Headquarters and the 2nd Bomb Wing, which is the largest bomber unit in the Air Combat Command.

In the 1930s, when the base was established, oil and gas field development was prohibited within 1/2-mile of the Explosive Ordinance Demolition Range. But in 1951 and 1953, oil and gas leases were issued in the outer perimeter of the east reservation (base). Then in 1961, the upland interior was leased, bringing the total oil and gas (leased) acreage to just over 12,000 acres.

Over the years, the total number of active wells has remained more or less constant, as new wells are drilled and non-producing wells are plugged and abandoned. Currently, there are over 100 active oil and gas wells on six Federal leases.

Today's current high prices for oil and gas have resulted in an increase in activity on the Barksdale AFB. Recent significant gas discoveries from deep formations have some people from the operating companies describing the base as "Little Kuwait." Operating companies are projecting a sharp increase in the number of Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) they will file. About 100-200 new APD filings are expected in the next year or two. If the projected development occurs, the number of wells will more than double, and Barksdale AFB will then be a major player in the oil and gas industry in the Southeastern United States.

## Identifying Island Ownership in Wisconsin

*By Robert Patterson, Land Law Examiner, BLM-Eastern States, Division of Land Resources, and Marcia Sieckman, Acting Team Lead for Natural Resources, Milwaukee Field Office*

**T**he BLM-ES Branch of Cadastral Survey and the Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) are taking preliminary steps to identify island ownership of 45 unsurveyed river islands in the Wisconsin River. The islands range in size from 0.2 acres to 175 acres and are located along a 210-mile stretch of the Wisconsin River from Stevens Point to the Mississippi River. BLM-Eastern States' experience in surveying river islands is nationally recognized.

Possible Federal ownership of the islands must be determined before establishing future partnerships with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and others to manage them. Although the MFO is in the preliminary stages of identifying potential partners. The islands provide important feeding, resting and nesting habitat for songbirds, shorebirds and waterfowl. The submerged structures of the islands, along with the



Photo by Sylvia Jordan

**BLM personnel travel down the Wisconsin River to survey islands.**

adjacent fringe of aquatic vegetation enhance the river's fisheries by providing feeding habitat and protective cover. The islands contribute to the ecological system of the Wisconsin River corridor. Our efforts to engage partners in island management will contribute to maintaining resource values and ensuring continued recreation opportunities such as picnicking and observing wildlife.



## Hearty Runners Brave January Snows at Meadowood SRMA

Story and photo by Jinx Fox, Natural Resource Specialist/Equine Lead, BLM-Eastern States, Lower Potomac Field Station

On Sunday, January 30, more than 60 members of the regional Virginia Happy Trails Running Club braved snowy, winter weather and frozen trails for the 14th Annual Eagle Run across the Mason Neck Peninsula in northern Virginia, about 25 miles south of Washington, DC.

BLM-Eastern States Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and other Mason Neck properties, including Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Mason Neck Fish & Wildlife Refuge, and historic Gunston Hall, were all part of the route that the runners took through Mason Neck.

Runners hit Meadowood's Mustang and Thompson Creek Trails twice early in the morning, proceeding from the lower wetlands up through the woods. As they looped through the equestrian facilities, a support truck met them with water and other supplies and the horses boarded at the facility galloped along the fencelines. Local BLM volunteer, Gary Nippling, who worked with BLM to arrange for the runners to cross portions of Meadowood, flagged the trail prior to the run and was on hand to ensure that all runners completed the run safely.



Virginia Happy Trails Running Club members jog down the stable entrance during the early morning snow at the Meadowood SRMA during the Annual Eagle Run XIV in January 2005.

The Eagle Run is named for the bald eagles which inhabit Mason Neck's shoreline. While no eagles were sighted early that day at Meadowood due to the heavy early snow, runners did see eagles later in the day as they traveled the trails both at Pohick Bay Regional Park and at Gunston Hall. Eagle sightings are a major highlight of the run, which draws runners from throughout the Washington, DC, area. More information about the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club and Eagle Run XIV can be found at [www.vhtrc.org](http://www.vhtrc.org).

## Hotshots Reach Out to Community

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

During this past off-season, members of the Jackson Hotshot Crew (JHC) spent an afternoon with children at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. They lightened the youngsters' day by talking about being a firefighter and sharing firefighting experiences. They also played video and other games with the children.

On another occasion, the crew spent a day with students, in grades K-6, at the Triumph Village Christian Academy, also in Jackson, conducting fire safety and environmental education presentations.

Participating in local community outreach has become an important part of the JHC's mission and a tradition they plan to continue.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

(April to June 2005)

- April 9-10 — WH&B Adoption, Edinburgh, IN
- April 16-17 — WH&B Adoption, Ewing, IL
- April 17-20 — Joint Spring 2005 ELRC/WSLCA Conference, Washington, DC
- April 22 — 3rd Annual Earth Day Event, Meadowood SRMA (Belmont location), Lorton, VA
- April 23-24 — WH&B Adoption, Waterloo, IA
- April 23-24 — WH&B Adoption, Martin, TN
- April 30 - May 1 — Bird Fest 2005 at the National Zoo, Washington, DC
- May 7-8 — WH&B Adoption, Columbia, MO
- May 14-15 — WH&B Adoption, South Congaree, SC
- May 14-15 — 48th Annual Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show, Milwaukee, WI
- May 21-22 — WH&B Adoption, Midland, MI
- May 21-22 — WH&B Adoption, Marianna, FL
- June 1 — Internet WH&B Adoption (ends June 22)
- June 3-5 — WH&B Adoption, Lorton, VA
- June 18-19 — WH&B Adoption, Fort Smith, AR
- June 25-26 — WH&B Adoption, Dillsburg, PA



## Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Information Now More Accessible

By Bill Davenport, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States

**B**LM-Eastern States plays a critical role in supporting the Bureau's Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) strategy to achieve Appropriate Management Level (AML). This year we are striving to help to reduce the population of WH&Bs on the public range through the adoption of about 3,200 animals in the East. To accomplish this, we will be conducting some 39 WH&B adoptions across the Eastern United States. Adoptions are scheduled in States on the northern border to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the upper Northeastern States. In addition, five internet adoptions will be held which will allow potential adopters to acquire a wild horse or burro without leaving their homes until it is time they pick up their animal.

To help spread the word about WH&B adoptions in the East, BLM-ES continues to embrace the newest technologies and receives help from many volunteers to help sustain a high level of adoptions. Recently, the BLM-ES' WH&B Web page at [www.es.blm.gov/whb/](http://www.es.blm.gov/whb/) was updated to allow volunteers to help advertise upcoming adoptions. Flyers with information about the

date and location of each event can be downloaded or printed directly from the web page. Once printed, volunteers can post the flyers in local feed and tack stores and load the flyers on their own equine web pages.

The WH&B Web page provides potential adopters with a fill-in PDF adoption application form which can be completed and printed online. Information is also available about adoption requirements, frequently asked questions, links to all adoption locations with directions, and contact information for appropriate BLM-ES Field Offices.

In addition, the Web page now includes a WH&B mailing list sign-up feature, which allows interested and potential adopters an opportunity to get information quickly. This information is added to the direct mailing list, which is growing at a rate of more than 300 names a month.

**For the most recent information about BLM's new wild horse and burro sale authority, visit BLM's Web site at [www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/whb\\_authority/](http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/whb_authority/) or call BLM's Washington Office, toll free, at 1-800-710-7597.**

## BLM's Sponsorship of River Cleanups in Missouri Results in Award for Scout Group

Story and photo by Steve Volz, Geologist, BLM-Eastern States, Solid Minerals Team

**S**ince 1999, the Rolla, Missouri, BLM-ES Solid Minerals Team has helped organize an annual Ozark River Cleanup in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, as part of its National Public Lands Day events.

From the beginning, Boy Scout Venturing Crew 84 has led the way to participate in these cleanups. On November 30, 2004, Crew 84, sponsored by the Mark Twain National Forest in Rolla, received the "2004 Outstanding Achievement Award" from Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District in St. James, Missouri, for their cleanup efforts. Each year the District recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the environment and their community. The Scouting award stated, "Venture Crew 84's efforts to beautify area streams is making a significant impact and sets an example in volunteerism and environmental



**Venture Crew 84 receives the "2004 Outstanding Achievement Award" for cleanup efforts on the Ozark River in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri.**

stewardship for the entire region. Efforts like these are crucial and go far to help the district meet its goals of addressing illegal dumping and making sure that all solid waste is safely and properly disposed of. Venture Crew 84 serves as a model volunteer group throughout the Ozark Rivers District."

Venturing is the Boy Scouts of America's older youth program. Unlike Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting, Venturing is open to both boys and girls. Participants range in age from 14-20 years old.





## New Managers Anxious to Lead Division of Natural Resources



Photo by Bill Davenport

**(From left) BLM-ES Deputy State Director Steve Gobat discusses the Division of Natural Resources' activities with his Assistant Deputy State Director, Dave Stout.**

Steve Gobat began a challenging managerial opportunity at BLM-ES as Deputy State Director for the Division of Natural Resources in 2004. Prior to this, he served as Branch Chief for Lands, Recreation, and Planning and Acting Deputy State Director for Resources at BLM's Arizona State Office. In these capacities, he managed the full scope of an active renewable and non-renewable resources program. In 2003, the Lands Program received the first BLM Director's Four Cs Award for developing partnerships on Federal highway projects crossing Federal lands.

In 1992, Steve started work with the BLM in Oregon, working as the Manager of the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport, where he was responsible for the design and development of a \$20 million project to build a state-of-the-art interpretive facility and restore an historic lighthouse. This project included the construction of the world's first man-made, handicapped accessible tidal pools. During this era, he received the President's Hammer Award, BLM's National Recreation Award, and the State of Oregon's Stewart Award for accomplishments at Yaquina Head.

From 1976 through 1992, Steve held Federal Government positions which included working for the National Park Service (NPS) as Chief Ranger and later Acting Superintendent at the San Juan Island National Historical Park in northwest Washington; Public Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service at the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area on the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon; and as Park Ranger at the San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Steve received his B.A. degree in History of the Western Hemisphere in 1976, and an A.A. degree in Journalism in 1974. He was born on the Omaha Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska, and his great-grandfather was the Indian Agent. Steve spent most of his youth in Grays Harbor on the coast of Washington State. His wife, Judy, works in early childhood education. Steve has two daughters—Myra, who attends Northern Arizona University, and Elyce, who graduates from high school this year. Steve's interests include: collecting wooden musical instruments such as guitars, banjos, mandolins, and violins; hunting; fishing; hiking; camping; and Star Trek.

In late February 2005, Dave Stout, an Associate Field Manager from the Elko Field Office in Nevada (1997-2005), headed East to help Steve manage the Division of Natural Resources at BLM-ES. Prior to his Federal employment in Nevada, Dave worked as a Natural Resource Specialist in BLM's New Mexico Roswell District (1994-1997); Assistant Area Manager in the Roswell Resource Area (1991-1994); and Supervisory Multi-Resource Specialist in the Carlsbad Resource Area (1989-1991). Between April 1988 through April 1989, Dave attended a Managerial Development Trainee session conducted at the BLM's Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Earlier Federal assignments included work as a Community Planner at BLM's Wyoming Worland District (1984-1988), Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Washakie Resource Area (1978-1984), and Outdoor Recreation Planner in the Shoshone Resource Area (1976-1978).

Dave earned a B.S. degree in Outdoor Recreation (Planning and Design Emphasis) from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, and a M.S. degree in Park Administration (Planning Emphasis) at Texas Tech University. Dave's hobbies/interests include: reading or movies, participating as a jazz musician at events, and spending time with his wife, Mimi, an Occupational Therapist. Dave has three grown children—Sara, currently a pre-kindergarten teacher in Houston, Texas; David, a graduate student at the University of New Mexico and film editor for NBC in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Rachel, a graduate student in acupuncture/Chinese medicine and a licensed massage therapist in Denver, Colorado.



## JFO Black History Month Tour Mixes History and the Blues

Story and photo by Patrice Junius, JFO Outreach Coordinator, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

Through a partnership between the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), 22 employees boarded a Greyhound Bus for a day of travel on Highway 49 to experience history up close and to learn about the blues of the Mississippi Delta. This expedition was part of a campaign to help employees become more aware of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

While en route, the bus stopped to pick up a hitchhiker named "Big A," who announced that he was on his way to "The Crossroads," a landmark where blues singer, Robert Johnson, claimed to have sold his soul to the devil for the ability to play music like no other. Big A entertained the group with many songs and even sang a few requests.

The first stop on the trip was to the Hopson Plantation, located outside the city of Clarksdale in Mississippi, where the first mechanical cotton picker was invented. A tour of the plantation was guided by Clarksdale native Robert Birdsong, who often quoted Patsy Clark, the daughter of the founder of the city. "When I was a little boy, Patsy would take me into her kitchen, give me cookies and share stories of the town with me," he said. "I have her to thank for most of my knowledge."

Lunch was served at the Plantation, where employees enjoyed barbecue and listened to the sounds of B.B. King on a Juke Box. Following, the group enjoyed stories about a six pack of sharecropper shacks, and a police cruiser located on the grounds of the Plantation. "The police cruiser is one of the originals and only survivor from the motion picture 'The Blues Brothers,'" said Birdsong.

The second stop was at the Riverside Hotel, the first African-American Hospital in the area. Blues singer Bessie Smith died in one of its rooms. Guests at the hotel also included Ike Turner and John F. Kennedy, Jr. (JFK, Jr.). Owner, Frank "Rat" Ratliff said, "Many famous people have stayed at the hotel over the years. My mother didn't tell me about JFK, Jr. until he was gone. Many didn't know he stayed here that weekend. That's the way he wanted it."



**BLM-ESJFO and USGS employees visit the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi.**

The third and final stop was at Blues Alley and the Delta Blues Museum, where employees passed Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club and walked inside the cabin where blues singer Muddy Waters once lived. The museum also pays tribute to B.B. King, Sam Cooke, John Lee Hooker, W.C. Handy, and Ike Turner.

## The Niagara Movement

By Pat Tyler, Branch Chief, BLM-Eastern States,  
GLO Records Automation

On February 23, 2005, BLM-ES State Office employees were treated to a Black History program entitled, "The Niagara Movement." This movement was the first significant, organized protest in black history, led by W. E. Dubois and William M. Trotter.

The re-enactment of the event took place in the home of Mrs. Mary B. Talbert (Pat Tyler). In 1905, Mrs. Talbert opened her home to the organizer, Mr. Dubois, for a secret planning meeting of this now famous civil rights summit. Rev. Nathaniel Baker (a DOI employee) played Mr. Dubois, who was the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree from Harvard University.

Other invited guests to Mrs. Talbert's home included, Ida B. Wells Barnett (Ida Doup), newspaper editor, journalist and leader of the American anti-lynching crusade and Madame C.J. Walker (Lynda Nix), the inventor of a conditioning treatment for straightening hair and first American woman of any race or rank to become a millionaire.

Following the program, Rev. Baker read an inspiring speech entitled, "Making a Difference," which provided the audience with more history about the movement.



## ES Happenings

**D**uring the 2004 Holidays, BLM-ES partnered with the Lorton Community Action Center to provide food baskets to members of the community who were in need of a little extra help.

\*\*\*\*\*

On January 13, 2005, BLM-ES and U.S. Customs employees donated 32 units of blood to help save lives through the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross Blood Drive.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lower Potomac Field Station Manager Gary Cooper signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 1, with Simple Changes, Inc., a therapeutic riding (nonprofit) group, affiliated with the Friends of Meadowood. The MOU will provide for a therapeutic riding program for a 3-month trial period at the Meadowood SRMA during the spring.

\*\*\*\*\*

On February 4, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) employees participated in the Second Annual National Wear Red Day to show their support for women's heart disease awareness.

\*\*\*\*\*

From February 23-27, BLM-ES Public Affairs Specialist, Bill Davenport, helped BLM's Washington Office National WH&B Marketing Specialist, Debbie Collins, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, staff a booth at the 34th National Farrier's Convention held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The purpose of the conference was to update the farrier professionals from across the Nation and overseas about the industry trends and new horse hoof care techniques. BLM was present to raise the awareness of its wild horse and burro program, while encouraging professional farriers to participate in the BLM's Farrier Referral program, online at [www.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

On March 2, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) and U.S. Forest Service personnel conducted quarterly solid lease inspections on five Arkansas quartz leases on the Ouachita National Forest, Womble District, near Mt. Ida in Arkansas.

\*\*\*\*\*

In early March, BLM-ES JFO Outreach Specialist Patrice Junius presented Project Archaeology to the Mississippi Archaeological Association during their annual meeting in Vidalia, Louisiana. The presentation was an attempt to encourage developing partnerships between State and Federal agencies to meet the goals of education and preservation of cultural resources in the State.

\*\*\*\*\*

The BLM-ES MFO has completed coordination efforts with Premier Data Services for the development of Geographic Information System depiction of Federal lands with the greatest potential for oil and gas development in the Appalachian Basin.

\*\*\*\*\*

From March 11-13, BLM-ES Land Surveyors Corky Rodine and Jerry Wahl, and Lane Bouman (BLM-ES' volunteer and retired Cadastral Survey Chief), instructed participants at a Cadastral Survey Retracement Camp, located at the U.S. Forest Service's Camp in the Ocala National Forest in Florida. BLM-ES conducts the retracement camp in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Florida, and the Florida Society of Surveying and Maps. Rodine and Bouman have presented retracement camps in the State of Florida on a bi-annual basis for the past 20 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

BLM-ES MFO Public Affairs Specialist Martha Malik and Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Jim Engstrom finalized the partnership efforts with the Wisconsin Lutheran College which provided the college with U.S. Forest Service GIS Specialist, Joe Miller, to conduct two new labs in February. The labs focused on the ArcExplorer software application. This spatial data viewer software was also used to display data generated by the prior field work, and the data set was then enriched, March 31, when Engstrom conducted the Geographic Positioning System lab.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale was held March 24, 2005, at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia. Revenue generated through the auction amounted to \$6,408,192 for 155 parcels of Federal land on the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests in Arkansas, the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, and the Bienville and DeSoto and National Forests in Mississippi. Over \$4,809,050 will go to the U.S. Treasury, and \$1,599,142 will be shared by the affected States. Robert S. Brock from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, paid \$355,557 for 907.04 acres, the highest amount paid for a single parcel, in the Ozark National Forest, in Johnson County, Arkansas (AR). Mr. Brock also bid \$450 per acre for a lease in Pope County, AR, totaling \$285,423, which was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

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## Award

**Marcella Davis**, BLM-ES Environmental Education Program Specialist, Lower Potomac Field Station, received the BLM-ES State Director's "Striving for Excellence" Award in Public Land Management at her retirement luncheon on February 16, 2005. The award was presented to Marcella in recognition of her hard work and dedication in striving for excellence at BLM-ES. Marcella worked for the Federal Government for 42 years.

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## E-mail Briefs

**General Land Office.**—"Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you so much for placing your homestead records on line. By your actions I have been able to locate where my great-great-great grandfather lived in the final years of his life. My ancestor William B. Cunningham had moved from Spalding County Georgia to Polk County Florida and apparently established a farm there in the early 1890s. He had moved there with his second wife and their three children. If you are interested, I can email you more

Eastern States Vision Statement — As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

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information of some of his time in Florida as well as a picture of his grave! Yes, I located it on a very late Friday afternoon early last month. I am currently deployed here in Pensacola, Florida, with FEMA, working on the disaster recovery operations from Hurricane Ivan." Best Wishes, *Bob Klebs*

"I have been very pleased to find a number of my ancestors in your Land Patent database. I very much appreciate the work that has been invested in the development of your online system." *Vicki Roth*

## Comings & Goings

**New employees.**—*Yolanda Moore*, Procurement Analyst, and *Dave Stout*, Assistant Deputy State Director, Division of Natural Resources, SO. **Robert Hoffman** and **Thomas Klopff**, Geographic Information Specialist Interns, MFO.

**Transfers.**—*Paul Salvatore* Realty Specialist, and *Timothy Abing*, Petroleum Engineer, to U.S. Forest Service; *Chris Hanson*, Assistant Field Manager, MFO, to BLM's Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming; *Alanda Crawford*, GIS Specialist to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Agency; *Rosemary Waddon*, Human Resource Specialist, to Department of Justice; *Brownell (Pete) Turner*, Business Manager, to Department of Defense; *Dave Stewart*, Resources Division Branch Chief, to BLM's Washington Office; and *Christine Solomon*, Human Resources Specialist, to General Services Administration.

**Retirees.**—*Char Hannigan*, Staff Assistant, *Marcella Davis*, Environmental Education Program Specialist, and *Don Sliger*, Lead Computer Specialist.

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